



PCDC was formed in 1966 to preserve, protect and promote Chinatown as a viable ethnic, business and residential community.

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April 2009 News

Community News

PCDC Celebrates the Chinese Year of the Ox

On February 20, 2009, the Philadelphia Chinatown Development Corporation (PCDC) and Presenting Sponsor PNC Bank celebrated the Chinese New Year of the Ox. PCDC's annual fundraiser was held at Ocean City Restaurant, and PCDC filled the banquet hall with 400 guests. PCDC awarded Patrick Kelly, Senior Vice President of Bank of America, with the Community Service for his ongoing support of Chinatown's development. Special recognition was given to long-time volunteer and PCDC advisor Dr. Edward Kung for his selfless commitment to Asian American organizations in Chinatown and the Greater Philadelphia area. PCDC is grateful to event Co-chairs Cecilia Moy Yep and Carol Wong and the volunteers from our "Teen Program" for their dedication and time in the planning of the event. The Philadelphia Suns youth group were invited to perform the traditional lion dance.



Chinese New Year 2009, John Chin and Frank Parrozza, PNC Bank



Chinese New Year 2009, John Chin, Gary Ng, and Dr. Edward Kung

PCDC acknowledges the following donors for their generous contributions to the following organizations and individuals:

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PCDC History

This Month in History, April 1981



Mei Wah Yuen, 900 and 1000 block of Spring Street—Groundbreaking (from left to right) Cecilia Yep Moy, Mayor Green, George Moy, U.S. Rep. Tomas Foglietta and Joe Lowe.

In April 1981, Chinatown made a historic start to affordable housing with a groundbreaking ceremony for Mei Wah Yuen, Chinatown's first housing project of 25 units. The community struggled 15 years to make this happen, encountering resistance at almost every level of government. Today, PCDC continues to advocate for affordable housing on behalf of the residents in the community.

Community News

Chinatown Goes to Harrisburg—Continues Opposition to Foxwoods Casino Relocation

On April 8th PCDC staffer, Xu Lin, organized a dozen youth and seniors to ride the bus to Harrisburg to attend the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board's meeting with the two Philadelphia casinos.



At the meeting, Foxwoods Casino announced its future intention to seek approval to relocate its gambling site license from the Delaware River to the historic Strawbridge building at 8th & Markets. Foxwoods promised that zoning would be "almost instant" and hoped to be open within one year.

The furious anti-casino protesters condemned representatives of Foxwoods for moving the project so close to the Heart of the City. The Foxwoods group was forced to exit over the stage of the State Museum auditorium, where the board members were sitting, and out a back door. John Chin, PCDC Executive Director, testified and asked the PGCB to consider the impacts to neighborhoods above maximizing gambling revenue. "I don't want casinos near Chinatown. Casinos will not benefit us, but will break up families and bring safety issues." William Chen, student leader at South Philadelphia High School.

PCDC urges everyone to attend the meetings below and express our oppositions to the casinos.

Important Upcoming Hearings:

May 6, 2009 – PA gaming Control Board Hearing on Sugarhouse Casino

PA Convention Center, Room 204A
12th and Arch Streets

May 7, 2009 – City Council Hearings on CED Legislation for 801 Market Street

Accessing Service

The **Independence Blue Cross & Highmark Blue Shield Caring Foundation's** bi-lingual specialist Jennifer Lam will be available on **Monday, May 4th, from 10:00am to 1:00pm** to provide application assistance for health insurance to low-income families who do not qualify for Medicaid at PCDC's office (901 Wood Street). You must call Jennifer Lam at (215) 779-8954 in advance to schedule an appointment.

Housing News

Chinatown Homeownership Initiative: Establishing Roots

For millions of families, homeownership is a route to creating wealth. It builds financial security for the future. **If you are planning to purchase a home**, PCDC is hosting a Freddie Mac - Credit Smart® workshop. The seminar will be held in both Cantonese and Mandarin.

The **Credit Smart®** workshops cover the importance of establishing credit, savings, loan information and the process of homeownership, tools for how to make the best financial choices for you and your family, and the responsibilities of being a homeowner.

This is a FREE 2 part series seminar.

Part I - Steps to Homeownership
May 6th from 6 - 8PM

Part II - Homeowner Benefits & Responsibilities

May 13th from 6 - 8 PM Guest Speaker:
State Farm Insurance



State Farm Insurance Company Specialist will be explaining the homeowner's insurance policy. Bring a copy of your homeowner's policy on May 13th and State Farm will review it for free.

Call **Wendy at PCDC at 215/922-6156** to make your reservation.

Community Event

Asian Pacific American Heritage Month

PCDC's staff has been supporting the Governor's Advisory Commission on Asian American Affairs, which invites you to celebrate its 3rd "Asian Pacific American Heritage Month Celebration."

When: Saturday, **May 30th**, 11am to 5 pm (Rain or shine)

Where: Benjamin Franklin Square
6th and Race Streets, Philadelphia

What: There will be Asian cultural performances, exquisite ethnic variety food, Asian art and ethnic merchandise, Children's fun events, Merry-go-round, sports activities and much more.

Cost: Admission is **FREE**.

Participating communities include Cambodian, Chinese, Filipino, Indian, Indonesian, Japanese, Korean, Thai, Vietnamese, and many more.